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21 SEP 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Post-Mortem on CIA Reporting on the
Situation in Cambodia After the
Bombing Halt

1. Attached is the post-mortem you requested on our reporting on the likely course of events in Cambodia after the bombing halt of 15 August 1973. The post-mortem was prepared by OCI and coordinated with DDO, SAVA, ONE, and OER. I think the post-mortem is a very fair evaluation, although I would have preferred, of course, that our batting average was somewhat better when it came to our forward-looking estimating.

2. I think two observations are in order. In the estimating field, this post-mortem points out the difficulty of making estimates when so much of the analysts' judgment depends upon his knowledge of future US courses of action. By this I mean that if the community had been aware of the massive scale of bombing which the US was going to undertake, I am sure the estimate would then have turned to the really critical question-- What will be the effects of this bombing on Khmer Communist capabilities? This sort of inquiry would have led to a judgment that the Khmer Communist capabilities would be so severely degraded by the time the bombing had stopped that we would not have been so pessimistic about the capabilities of the FANK forces and the Cambodian government to continue.

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SECRET

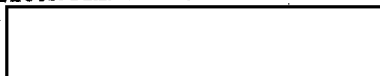
3. My second observation is that we performed better in our current intelligence reporting for the period following the estimate. I think the citations and the post-mortem point out quite clearly that we were warning our readers that the capabilities of the Communists to pull off any large-scale offensive were being weakened and, more to the point, could not be rebuilt for some time after the bombing halt.



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EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment:



ADDI/PVWalsh/tb (21 Sept 73)

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